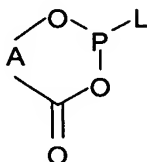


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A process for preparing trivalent organophosphorus compounds which bear at least one structural unit S



(S)

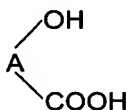
where A is a divalent substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or aryl radical which may form a ring system as per structural unit S, and the L radical is an organic radical bonded to the phosphorus atom via an oxygen or carbon atom, or is a halide,

by condensing phosphorus compounds of the formula i



where Hal is halide selected from chlorine, bromine and iodine, and the halides may be the same or different, R is an organic radical bonded to the phosphorus via a carbon or oxygen atom, and $a = 2$ or 3 ,

with an organic compound of the formula S'



(S')

where A is as defined for the structural unit S,

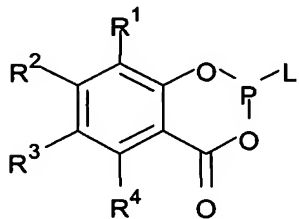
which comprises

carrying out the reaction in the presence of at least one basic ion exchange resin.

Claim 2 (Original): The process of claim 1,

wherein

trivalent organophosphorus compounds which have at least one structural unit T



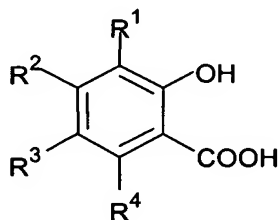
(T)

where R¹, R², R³, and R⁴ are each independently selected from monovalent substituted and unsubstituted aliphatic, alicyclic, aromatic, heteroaromatic, mixed aliphatic-alicyclic, mixed aliphatic-aromatic, heterocyclic, mixed aliphatic-heterocyclic, hydrocarbon radicals having from 1 to 50 carbon atoms, H, F, Cl, Br, I, -CF₃, CH₂(CF₂)_jCF₃ with j = 0 -9, -OR⁹, -COR⁹, -CO₂R⁹, -CO₂M, -SR⁹, -SO₂R⁹, -SOR⁹, -SO₃R⁹, -SO₃M, -SO₂NR⁹R¹⁰, -NR⁹R¹⁰, -N=CR⁹R¹⁰, where R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each independently selected from H, monovalent substituted and unsubstituted aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbon radicals having from 1 to 25 carbon atoms, and M is an alkali metal ion, formally half an alkaline earth metal ion, ammonium ion or phosphonium ion, or adjacent R¹ to R⁴ radicals together form a fused substituted or unsubstituted aromatic, heteroaromatic, aliphatic, mixed aromatic-aliphatic or mixed heteroaromatic-aliphatic ring system; and the substituted hydrocarbon radicals may have as substituents those selected from -N(R⁵)₂, -NHR⁵, -NH₂, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, -OH, -CN, -C(O)-R⁵, -C(O)H or -C(O)O-R⁵, -CF₃, -O-R⁵, -C(O)N-R⁵, -OC(O)-R⁵ and/or -Si(R⁵)₃, where R⁵ is a monovalent hydrocarbon radical preferably having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and, when a plurality of hydrocarbon radicals R⁵ is present, they may be the same or different, and R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ radicals may be the same or different, and L is an organic radical bonded to the phosphorus atom via an oxygen or carbon atom, or is a halide, are prepared by condensing phosphorus compounds of the formula i



where Hal is halide selected from chlorine, bromine and iodine, and the halides may be the same or different, R is an organic radical bonded to the phosphorus via a carbon or oxygen atom and $a = 2$ or 3 ,

with an organic compound of the formula T'



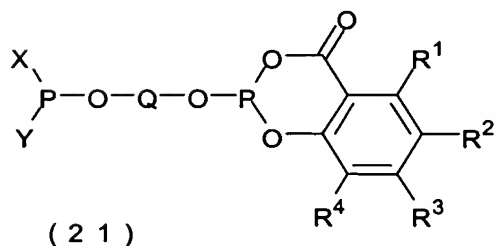
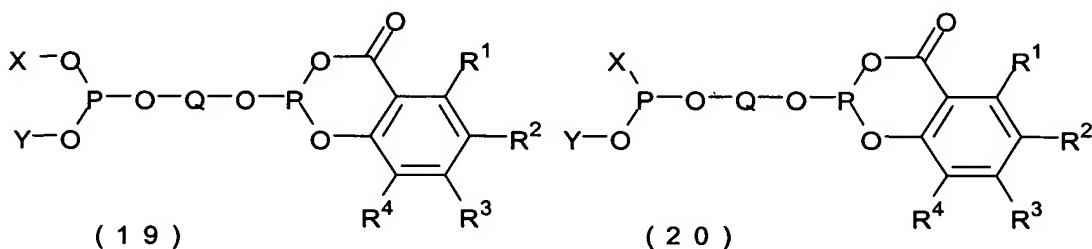
(T')

where the R^1 to R^4 radicals are each as defined for the structural unit T.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 1 ~~claims 1 or 2~~,

wherein

the trivalent organophosphorus compound prepared is at least one compound selected from the compounds of the following formulae

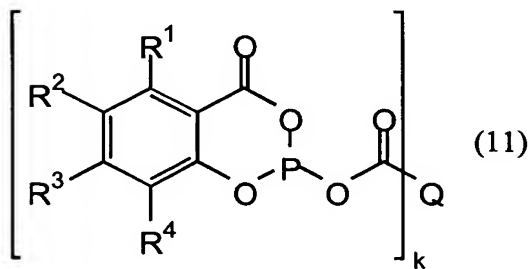
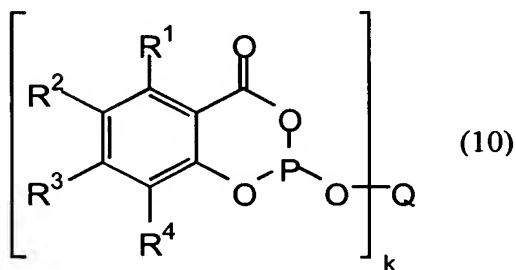


where X and Y are substituted or unsubstituted, aliphatic, alicyclic, aliphatic-alicyclic, heterocyclic, aliphatic-heterocyclic, aromatic-aromatic or aliphatic-aromatic hydrocarbon

radicals having from 1 to 50 carbon atoms, and X and Y are the same or different or covalently joined together, and where Q is an at least divalent, substituted or unsubstituted aliphatic, alicyclic, aliphatic-alicyclic, heterocyclic, aliphatic-heterocyclic, aromatic, aromatic-aromatic or aliphatic-aromatic hydrocarbon radical, and the substituted hydrocarbon radicals may have as substituents those selected from $-N(R^5)_2$, $-NHR^5$, $-NH_2$, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, $-OH$, $-CN$, $-C(O)-R^5$, $-C(O)H$ or $-C(O)O-R^5$, $-CF_3$, $-O-R^5$, $-C(O)N-R^5$, $-OC(O)-R^5$ and/or $-Si(R^5)_3$, where R^5 is a monovalent hydrocarbon radical preferably having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and, when a plurality of hydrocarbon radicals R^5 is present, they may be the same or different, and where R^1 to R^4 are each as defined for the structural unit T.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 1 ~~at least one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein

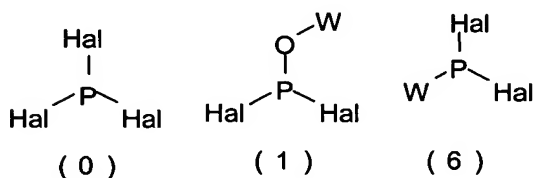
the trivalent organophosphorus compounds prepared are phosphites of the formula 10 or 11



where R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 are each as defined for the structural unit T, Q is a k-valent substituted or unsubstituted aliphatic, alicyclic, mixed aliphatic-alicyclic, heterocyclic, mixed aliphatic-heterocyclic, aromatic, heteroaromatic, mixed aliphatic-aromatic, hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 50 carbon atoms, and aliphatic moieties of Q may contain oxygen, sulfur and/or nitrogen, and where the substituted hydrocarbon radicals may have as substituents those selected from $-N(R^5)_2$, $-NHR^5$, $-NH_2$, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, $-OH$, $-CN$, $-C(O)-R^5$, $-C(O)H$ or $-C(O)O-R^5$, $-CF_3$, $-O-R^5$, $-C(O)N-R^5$, $-OC(O)-R^5$ and/or $-Si(R^5)_3$, where R^5 is a monovalent hydrocarbon radical preferably having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and, when a plurality of hydrocarbon radicals are R^5 is present, they may be the same or different, k is at least 2, and R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 in the individual structural elements T bonded to Q may each have the same or different definitions.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 1 ~~at least one of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein

the phosphorus compound of the formula i used is at least one compound selected from the compounds of the following formulae



where W is an organic radical.

Claim 6 (Original): The process of claim 5, wherein

the phosphorus compound of the formula i used is a compound of the formula 1 which is prepared by reacting a compound 0 with an organic compound having at least one hydroxyl group W in the presence of a basic ion exchanger.

Claim 7 (Original): The process of claim 6,

wherein

the compound having at least one hydroxyl group W is at least one substituted or unsubstituted compound selected from methanol, ethanol, n-propanol, isopropanol, 1-butanol, 2-butanol, t-butanol, 2-ethylhexanol, isononanol, isodecanol, isotridecanol, phenol, phenol derivatives, 1,4-dihydroxybenzene, 1,2-dihydroxybenzene, 1,8-dihydroxynaphthalene, 1,1'-binaphthyl-2,2'-diol, 2,2'-binaphthyl-1,1'-diol, or a compound which has one or more hydroxyl groups and one or more of the structural units T, and the substituted compounds have substituents selected from primary, secondary and tertiary alkyl groups, alicyclic groups, aromatic groups, $-N(R^5)_2$, $-NHR^5$, $-NH_2$, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, $-OH$, $-CN$, $-C(O)-R^5$, $-C(O)H$ or $-C(O)O-R^5$, $-CF_3$, $-O-R^5$, $-C(O)N-R^5$, $-OC(O)-R^5$ and/or $-Si(R^5)_3$, where R^5 is a monovalent hydrocarbon radical preferably having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and, when a plurality of hydrocarbon radicals R^5 is present, they may be the same or different.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 6 ~~at least one of claims 5 to 7~~,

wherein

compounds of the formula 1 are prepared by in each case initially charging the phosphorus compound together with one or more basic ion exchange resins and subsequently metering in the compound having at least one OH group.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 3 ~~at least one of claims 3 and 4~~,
wherein

asymmetric diphosphorus compounds of the formulae 19, 20, 21, ~~10 and 11~~ are
prepared by initially charging the compound having OH groups together with one or more
basic ion exchange resins and subsequently metering in one or more phosphorus compounds.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 1 ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~,
wherein

the reaction of a compound having at least one phosphorus-halogen bond with a
compound having at least one hydroxyl group is one reaction step.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 1 ~~claim 10~~,
wherein,

when carrying out a plurality of reaction steps, they may be carried out continuously
or batchwise.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 11 ~~claim 10 or 11~~,
wherein,

when carrying out a plurality of reaction steps, identical or different ion exchangers
may be used in the reaction steps.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 11 ~~one of claims 10 to 12~~,
wherein,

when carrying out the plurality of reaction steps, identical or different temperatures may be set in the reaction steps.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 1 ~~at least one of claims 1 to 13~~,
which

is carried out in the presence of one or more solvents which are selected from the group consisting of benzene, toluene, xylene, pentane, n-hexane, n-heptane, cyclohexane, methylcyclohexane, diethyl ether, diisopropyl ether, methyl tert-butyl ether, anisole, tetrahydrofuran, 1,4-dioxane, 1,3-dioxolane, ethyl acetate, isobutyl acetate, tert-butyl acetate, ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate, 1,2-butylene carbonate, acetone, 2-butanone, 3,3-dimethyl-2-butanone, benzonitrile, propionitrile, acetonitrile, lactones, N-methylpyrrolidone, dimethylformamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, N-alkylmorpholines, amines and sulfolane.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 1 ~~at least one of claims 1 to 14~~,
which

is carried out in the presence of polymeric, weakly basic ion exchange resins based on styrene-divinylbenzene copolymers which bear N,N-diakylamine groups.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 15 ~~one of claims 1 to 15~~,
wherein

the ion exchanger is used in the form of particles having an average particle size of from 10 μm to 2 mm or in the form of a fixed package.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 15 ~~one of claims 1 to 16~~,
wherein

the ion exchanger is dried before use in the process according to the invention.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 1 ~~one of claims 1 to 17~~,
which
is carried out in the presence of a proton transferrer.